

C. Remarks

The claims are 57-80, with claims 57 and 68 being independent. Claims 1-5, 8-14, 16-31, 34-38, 40 and 42-50 have been cancelled in view of the above-mentioned new pending claims. The new claims are supported by the disclosure throughout the specification, the previously presented claims and the drawings. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is expressly requested.

Claim 1-5, 8-14, 16-31, 34-38, 40 and 42-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent Nos. 5,726,529 (Dean), 5,614,781 (Spindt); or 5,083,058 (Nonomura) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,153,973 (Shibata).

Without acquiescence, the rejected claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the above rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

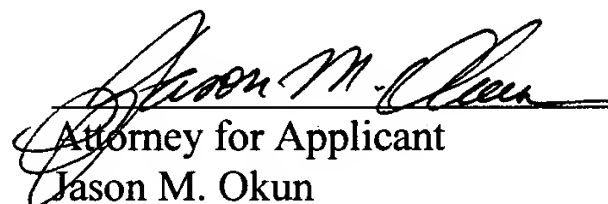
Applicant submits that the new claims are patentable over the art of record. Specifically, the presently claimed invention, in pertinent part, is directed to a method for manufacturing a spacer. In this method, a liquid material is applied to a spacer substrate, which has been pretreated in advance so that substantially no acute angle in a cross-section is provided at a corner edge between a side surface and a bottom surface of the spacer substrate. It is preferred that the liquid film material be applied only to the pretreated area.

Applicant submits that Dean, Spindt, Nonomura and Shibata, whether considered separately or in any proper combination, do not disclose or suggest this feature of the present invention. Thus, they cannot affect the patentability of the presently claimed invention.

Wherefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn and the present case be passed to issue.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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